

# Fort Hamilton Quick Connect

USAG Fort Hamilton, NY

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## ***Around the Fort***

### **Commissary closed Oct. 12**

The Fort Hamilton Commissary will close an additional day next week in observance of Columbus Day. The store will be closed Tuesday, Oct. 12 in addition to its normal Monday closure.

### **Voting help offered for upcoming general election**

The November 2nd general election is one month away. Voters who have questions about absentee voting procedures or deadlines can get assistance online at the Federal Voting Assistance Program online at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), by telephone at 1-800-438-8683, DSN (312) 425-1584, or by email at [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov).

For local assistance, call the Installation Voting Assistance officer at (718) 630-4721.

### **Army Family Action Plan input needed**

Issues are now being solicited for Fort Hamilton's annual Army Family Action Plan conference, which will be conducted Nov. 9, 2010 at the Community Club.

Any member of the Fort Hamilton Community can submit ideas for improvement for Fort Hamilton and the Army as a whole. Some issues could include cost of living, quality of education for children, medical and dental care, or preserving important benefits, or any other ideas that are of concern:

Issue Boxes are located in the PX, Post Office, Bowling Center, ACS, Barber Shop, Community Club, Visitor Control Center, Fitness Center, Chapel, Bldg 210, NYC Recruiting Battalion, Child Youth Services, USO, Commissary, ID Section, Balfour Beatty Office and the education center.

For more information, contact the AFAP Program Coordinator at (718) 630-4498.

## ***News of Interest***

Brooklyn Daily Eagle (Fort Hamilton mention)  
Oct. 4, 2010

## **‘United GOP’ Celebrates Grimm**

by Harold Egel

### **Candidate Asks McMahon To ‘Disown Lopez’**

DYKER HEIGHTS – Riding a tide of what political pundits predict may be a Republican resurgence in the Nov. 2 election, Michael Grimm, challenger to Democratic Congressman Michael McMahon, was cheered by GOP and Conservative Party leaders at his Brooklyn campaign headquarters opening on Saturday.

“This is a defining moment in my campaign,” said Grimm, who seeks to represent the 13th Congressional District that includes Staten Island and southwest Brooklyn. The Staten Islander is a Gulf War Marine Corps veteran, entrepreneur and former FBI special agent.

Grimm recently was given top billing in the National Republican Congressional Campaign’s “Young Guns” program.

Brooklyn GOP chief Craig Eaton and Brooklyn Conservative Party leader Jerry Kassir vowed full support in their united front against McMahon, who has been in office only since January 2009.

“They’re supporting me because we know the era of job-killing taxes and regulations must end, and we must support fiscal sanity in Washington, D.C.,” said Grimm, who beat Brooklyn-born Michael Allegritti in the recent primary election. Allegritti, of Bayside Fuel Company, was supported by the Brooklyn Republican Party, and Grimm by the Conservative Party in that contest.

Grimm has called upon McMahon to “disown” his own Brooklyn Democratic Party leader, Assemblyman Vito Lopez, who is currently under scrutiny for alleged misdeeds concerning the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council that he founded in the 1970s.

“Representative McMahon doesn’t have the guts to stand up to Vito Lopez any more than he’ll stand up to Nancy Pelosi. Lopez is a corrupt party boss who will stop at nothing to hoard power,” charged Grimm. “And McMahon is content to look the other way as long as Lopez keeps helping him in his usual corrupt way.”

State Sen. Marty Golden, Brooklyn’s only Republican elected state official, endorsed Grimm at the opening. “Washington politicians are taxing us to death,” he said, adding that unless taxing and spending are curbed, the economy will stay stalled. “That’s why we need Michael Grimm in Congress now more than ever to fight for our families by growing our economy and creating jobs.”

McMahon was recently honored as a “guardian of small business” by the National Federation of Independent Businesses, meaning that he earned a rating of 70 percent or higher. The day the honor came, McMahon joined in with a majority vote for passage of the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010, hailing its passage as a big boost for access to credit by small businesses.

In endorsing Grimm, Eaton and Golden joined U.S. Sen. John McCain, former Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin, former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former Congress Members Guy Molinari and Susan Molinari as backers.

Bob Capano, a former government official from Bay Ridge and twice a GOP candidate for city and state office, noted he endorsed Grimm back in March. Now serving as Grimm’s Brooklyn senior advisor, he said, “The more Brooklynites get to know Michael Grimm, the more they like and respect him, and want him to be the new congressman to represent them.”

Recently Grimm pledged “a strong partnership” with the Fort Hamilton U.S. Army Garrison and proposed a veterans' job bill as among the first legislation he would introduce.

“Now that major combat operations in Iraq have ended, districts like ours will see a large influx of returning veterans,” Grimm said. His proposed bill would add incentives for businesses to hire veterans. These include, respectively, increases of \$4,000 and \$6,000.

McMahon has noted he gives returning veterans much-needed support through federal funding and that he has been a strong supporter of Fort Hamilton.

Two TV ads by Grimm’s campaign called McMahon “a career politician” who did not oppose the Democratic healthcare bill strongly enough. “DeFundIt.org,” a national organization working to de-fund “Obamacare,” recently endorsed Grimm.

New York Times  
October 5, 2010  
Pg. 1

## **Young Soldier Both Revered And Reviled**

By William Yardley

BILLINGS, Mont. — Staff Sgt. Calvin Gibbs called to say he did not kill Afghan civilians for the thrill of killing. Nor did he toss severed fingers at the feet of his fellow soldiers to scare them into silence.

“All he said was, ‘I don’t know where these guys are getting this stuff,’ ” said Eric Thomas, a childhood friend here, shortly after speaking with Sergeant Gibbs by telephone one recent evening. “He said none of it actually happened. He said for some reason the other guys were scared. He doesn’t know where it comes from.”

“Calvin Gibbs is not a murderer,” Mr. Thomas said. “I don’t want people hearing about finger bones and thinking they know Calvin, because they don’t.”

Members of his unit in Afghanistan paint a devastating picture of Sergeant Gibbs, 26. He is one of five soldiers facing potential courts-martial on charges that they killed Afghan civilians for sport, planting weapons near them to fake combat situations, collecting their body parts and taking photographs posing with their corpses.

Documents in the case obtained by The New York Times, including statements by soldiers and investigators, portray Sergeant Gibbs as the ringleader in three separate incidents involving the murder of civilians near Kandahar, Afghanistan, this year, and as the force behind intimidating other soldiers in his unit to keep quiet. Soldiers said Sergeant Gibbs threatened at least one subordinate with death if he ever disclosed the killings. Other soldiers not accused in the deaths say he mocked them for not meeting his standard for men on patrol.

“He told me the type of soldier he was looking for was the type that could kill anybody without any kind of regret,” Pfc. Ashton Moore told an Army investigator in May.

When Private Moore, who faces other charges, told Sergeant Gibbs that he would not kill someone without cause, he said the sergeant responded: “And that’s why you’ll be stuck in the truck the whole time. The guy I’m looking for is the guy that would shoot the dude just because he could shoot the dude.”

The case has prompted the military to review all combat deaths with which Sergeant Gibbs has been involved, including those during deployments to Iraq as early as 2004.

Specialist Jeremy N. Morlock, also accused in the Afghanistan deaths, said Sergeant Gibbs had openly discussed how he might kill Specialist Adam C. Winfield, another one of the accused, who he worried would report the killings.

“There were two scenarios SSG Gibbs told me about taking his life,” Specialist Morlock told Army investigators as part of the investigation into the five soldiers. “The first scenario was going to take him to the gym and drop a weight on his neck. The second scenario was SSG Gibbs was going to take him to the motor pool and drop a tow bar on him.”

Geoffrey Nathan, a lawyer for Specialist Morlock, criticized the Army for allowing Sergeant Gibbs to lead troops in combat. He said his client “could serve the rest of his life in prison for being in the throes of Gibbs.”

Several soldiers recalled Sergeant Gibbs and Specialist Morlock tossing severed fingers in front of a soldier who had reported the widespread use of hashish within the unit. That soldier, Pfc. Justin A. Stoner, later told investigators that he feared being killed the same way Afghan civilians had been, as if his death had happened in combat.

“It wouldn’t be hard for them to take me out and do the same to me and blame it on the Taliban,” Private Stoner told investigators.

Here in Billings, Sergeant Gibbs's friends say he was just performing his duty. "How could they put him in jail for doing his job over there?" Mr. Thomas asked. "I'm sure some people were shooting at him, so he shot back at them."

Not long before he was deployed to war zones overseas, Sergeant Gibbs was a struggling teenager in Billings. "No ambition," said a neighbor. His father worked in maintenance for the Mormon church and his family was active in the faith. He barely attended high school, earning just 1 of 20 credits necessary to graduate. In his high school yearbook during his sophomore year, he wore a T-shirt bearing the brand of a skateboarding company, "Independent."

Mr. Thomas, his brother Paul, Sergeant Gibbs and another friend were close as teenagers, frequently camping out on summer nights in Red Lodge, Mont., fishing, shooting BB guns and drinking beer.

Sergeant Gibbs played defensive end on the football team as a high school freshman. At 6-foot-4 and 220 pounds, he was "the strongest kid I ever played against," Mr. Thomas said. The friends played video games and rode skateboards, often spending time at the Gibbsses' house because friends said his parents were nice. Friends say all he ever wanted to be was a soldier.

His parents sent him away to an alternative school in Montana that often steered its students into the military. Sergeant Gibbs received a graduate equivalency degree from the program in the fall of 2002, having already enlisted in the military. He had dreamed of being in the Marines but, without a high school diploma, entered the Army instead.

A lawyer for Sergeant Gibbs declined to comment, as did Sergeant Gibbs's parents. A sister began to cry when she was asked about him and said her brother had requested that she not speak to reporters. Friends said they did not believe the charges.

"People get messed up in the head," during combat missions, said Paul Thomas, Eric Thomas's older brother. "But not Calvin. He was always a rock."

Paul Thomas is a former Marine. He said he had not seen Sergeant Gibbs since 2006. Since then, Sergeant Gibbs has served two tours in Afghanistan after serving one earlier in Iraq. Now, more than one soldier who served with him described him or his actions as "savage."

Private Stoner said Sergeant Gibbs "associates with skinheads online." Specialist Morlock said Sergeant Gibbs had "pure hatred" for all Afghans. Fingers he is accused of collecting are now part of the evidence in the case, as is a tooth he is said to have pulled from a dead Afghan and bones other soldiers said he dug up.

Sergeant Gibbs has refused to speak to military investigators. But during fingerprinting and photographing in May, he was required to show his tattoos. On his lower left leg was an image of crossed pistols and six skulls. He told an investigator, according to an investigation transcript, that the skulls were "his way of keeping count of the kills he had. The skulls that were in red were the ones from Iraq and the other three were the kills he had in Afghanistan."

Soldiers interviewed by investigators say Sergeant Gibbs had alluded to previous crimes he committed in Iraq, including one in which he shot into a car carrying an Iraqi family with children. By early this spring, as Sergeant Gibbs and others were being investigated, military investigators were widening their inquiry, specifically asking about a possible shooting in Iraq in early 2004.

“How many deployments has SSG Gibbs had?” investigators asked. “Need to determine if there was any suspicious incidents or investigations during all deployments.”

At least one soldier has said Sergeant Gibbs had photographs of bodies from his deployment to Iraq. A spokesman for the Army’s central Criminal Investigations Division in Virginia said he could not discuss whether Sergeant Gibbs had faced previous criminal investigations or charges.

Before Sergeant Gibbs invoked his right to a lawyer during an interview with investigators in May, investigators say he told them that “all incidents where he has been involved in are exactly how they are reported, meaning he was attacked and he then responded with his M-4, killing the local national. When questioned on whether any of the incidents were staged, SSG Gibbs stated that was offensive.”

Pfc. Adam W. Kelly, who is accused of assaulting Private Stoner along with several other soldiers, as well as possessing hashish, told investigators that he admired Sergeant Gibbs, as did others in their platoon, from senior officers to subordinates, and that he “displayed solid tactics.”

“I believe that because of his experience that more people came back alive and uninjured than would have without him having been part of the platoon,” Private Kelly said.

Sgt. Gibbs is married to a soldier based in the United States, Pfc. Chelsy M. Gibbs. They were married in a Mormon church in Billings. In 2008 they had a son, Calvin Richard Gibbs Jr. On her MySpace page, Private Gibbs listed her husband as one of her heroes, “for putting up with me, but mostly for the sacrifices he makes for our country.”

*Barbara Gray contributed research and Richard A. Oppel Jr. contributed reporting from Port Aransas, Tex.*

The IMCOM World Newsletter has been published for 17 and 24 SEP 2010.

[http://www.imcom.army.mil/hq/publications/imcom\\_world](http://www.imcom.army.mil/hq/publications/imcom_world)

#### **ADDITIONAL NEWS/LINKS**

OSD Early Bird, <http://ebird.osd.mil/>

U.S. Army News, <http://www.army.mil/>